

FD 1-40 Frequency Downconverter

Instructions and Manual

V 1.1

FD40-Manual_1V1.doc - Rev C, Nov. 2013 -



Features:

- Input Frequency Range 0.1 ... 40MHz
- 8 Independent Output Channels
- Individually Selectable L.O. Frequencies for Every Channel
- LabVIEWTM Source Code Available
- Typical Application: Ion FT-ICR Experiments

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Safety Hints

This device has to be powered by 230V ac voltage. In normal operation opening of the device case is not necessary or recommended. If, by any means, opening of the case is nessessary, observe appropriate safety measures. This device must be operated by qualified persons only.

The device must not be run under the following conditions:

- Ambient temperature below 0° or above 45°
- relative humidity above 75%

Ventilation: Ensure a clearing distance of at least 5cm around the case (top, rear, and both sides) to enable air flow cooling. Preventing air flow aroud the device will result in overheating and irreversible damage.

If by accident the device was mechanically or electrically damaged, consult manufacturer before putting back into operation or before applying repair measures.

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Principle of Operation

This device is intended for downconverion of ion signals from the MHz-range (1 to 40MHz) down to the LF (low frequency) range of 0...40kHz. It is a multichannel device, which has 2 inputs and 8 output channels. Generally the downconversion acts like illustrated in the following diagram. This process effectively shifts a selected frequency range down towards zero, bringing the signals of interest to a more convenient, i.e. smaller frequency range. The amount of frequency shift is defined by the L.O. (local oscillator) frequency. In the FD 1-40 this frequency can be chosen for every output channel individually. The whole device therefore provides the possibility to examine 8 independent frequency windows (each 40kHz wide) in the range from 1MHz to 40MHz, all at the same time and in real time mode (without data loss).

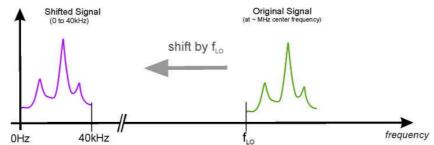


fig. 1: Illustration of a downconversion process. The signal pattern shown is arbitrarily chosen.

Target Application

The envisaged target application is the ion detection via FT-ICR (Fourier-Transform Ion Cyclotron Resoanance) in a miniaturized EBIT-type Penning ion trap. Unlike conventional FT-ICR, the cyclotron frequencies are considerably higher, bringing up the neccessity to down convert all ion signals to lower frequencies. As can be seen in the following illustration, the down converter forms together with an 8 channel 40kHz-FFT-analyzer a 40MHz FFT analyzer set up with 8-channel real time capability. Each of the 8 resulting frequency windows represents a 40kHz wide section of the input signal coming from the ion trap.

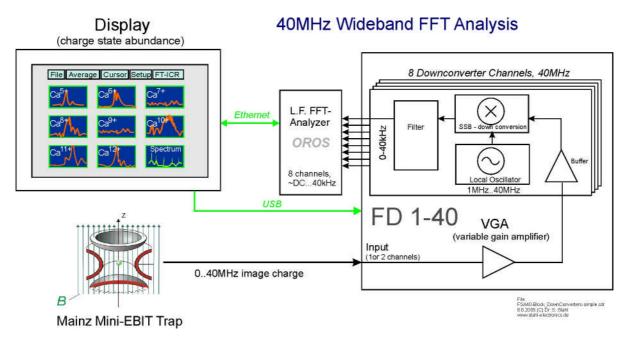


fig. 2: Illustration of the target application, including the 8-channel down converter FD 1-40.

Internal Structure

The simplified block diagram below shows the inner structure of the FD 1-40. The signals on two independent input channels are pre-amplified by programmable variable gain apmplifiers (VGA-Gain), digitized with fast (100MHz) 12Bit analog-to-digital converters and subsequently down converted by two dedicated digital signal processors. Each processor (type GC4016) has 4 individual down conversion output channel. This allows for a constant, non-interrupted flow of data, providing the real-time capability mentioned above, which is very useful, for achieving a real time ion FT-ICR detection. The use of digital (instead of analog) down conversion technology allows the implementation of many channels in parallel with relatively little amount of signal circuitry and elliminates the need for using a large bank of high-Q analog filters for all channels.

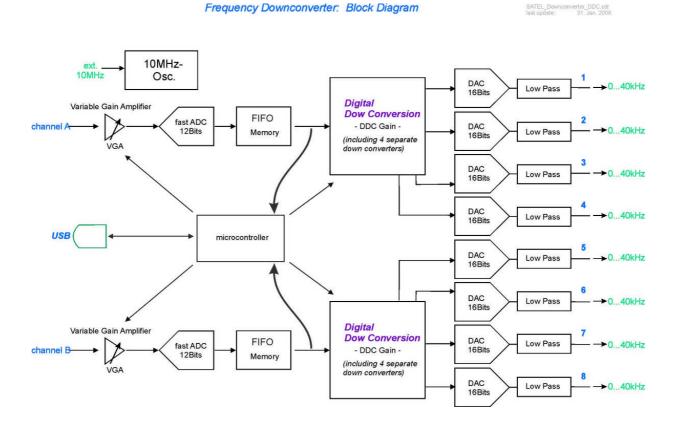


fig. 3: Internal structure of the FD 1-40

The typical down converter characteristics, like sideband rejection, stopband supression, frequency slope (fall-off) are essentially defined by digital filter parameters. These programmable FIR (finite response filters) are located inside the DDC (Digital Down Converter) Chips and loaded with a default set of values. After powering the whole device the microcontroller, which takes control of the whole device, performs this initialization with filter coefficients.

User Interface

The following screen shot, taken from the implemented FD 1-40 setting/control program, gives an impression of the most important settings. In a user program the functionality is advisable to integrate in such a way, that only the most important parameters are accessible. Facing the considerable number of free parameters which could be changed accidentally this procedure is highly recommended. Source codes in LabVIEWTM are available for easy implementation into own programs and can be adapted accordingly.

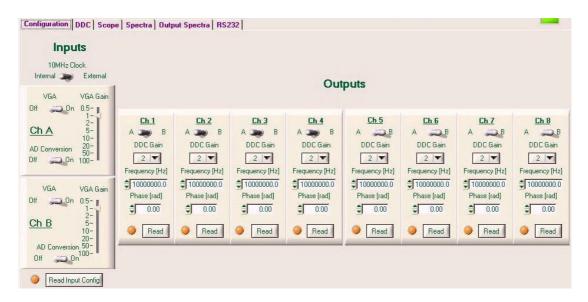


fig.4 : Screen shot of user interface for controlling the FD 1-40 parameters

Useful Gain Settings

In order to achieve a reasonably good signal to noise ratio (S/N) and avoidance of frequency crosstalk from unwanted sidebands, the following input settings can be used:

(all voltages are understood at 500hm input- and source impedance)

Note, that larger input levels can easily cause fast degradation of stopband-rejection and cause strong intermodulation effects. In order to run the FD 1-40 in a optimal state, the input signal has to be monitored, e.g. by an oscilloscope or level meter, and the VGA setting should be adjusted according to the input level, using the table above.

Note also, that too conservative (= too small) VGA Gain settings will result in poorer performance of the signal to noise-floor ratio, and should be avoided also. However, the rejection of unwanted siedebands might be for most FT-ICR application more crucial, therefore non-linear effects caused by a too large VGA Gain might be of primary interest.

For typical sideband rejection figures, see data on page 8-10.

How to connect the device

- to signal sources
- to an external clock/trigger source
- to the control PC
- to FFT analysers



fig. 5 front side view

Analog Inputs:

Inputs A and B (see picture above) are the analog signal inputs of the FD 1-40, and feature 50 Ohms input impedance (AC-related). The inputs are capacitively coupled, the DC-input resistance is larger 10MOhm. The capacitive coupling results in an input high pass frequency of 32 kHz. Signal frequencies smaller than 32 kHz will be supressed the stronger, the lower the frequency is. The maximum usable input signal frequency is 40.0 MHz. Above 40 MHz signal errors caused by aliasing effects become relevant. Input signal levels should never exceed 2.0V_{pp} in order to avoid damage. For adaptation of the internal amplification factor to certain signal levels applied at this input see page 3.

Either input channel A or channel B can be used as source for signal down conversion in any of the 8 channels. Selection of channel A/B as signal source is performed through the control software.

Trigger Inputs:

Currently not in use (Okt. 2013). Inputs are directly connected to the internal microcontroller and can be driven by 0V/5V level pulse signals, in case the microcontroller will be prepared for triggered operation. Currently the FD 1-40 runs always in continious mode.

10MHz Reference Input:

The FD 1-40 features an highly stable, expensive internal 10MHz reference clock source, which is based on an oven controlled quartz-oscillator. It has a ultra low temperature drift (<< 0.01ppm/K) and remarkably low aging (< 0.03ppm / yr). Stability in 1s is around 10⁻¹¹. Since all internal clocking circuitry is derived from this single clock source, the numbers mentioned above apply also for all remaining frequencies, i.e. the local oscillator frequency, by which the signal spectra are shifted, and signal sampling frequency as well.

However, if an external clock source is preferred, it is possible to apply a 10MHz signal to the "10MHz Input" port. In this case, and if the user control is set to "external clock source" accordingly, a CMOS-logic level signal of 10MHz can be applied here. The level should be 0V/3.3V up to 0V/5V signals. No input termination is foreseen. That requires a short distance to the signal source/signal generator (< 40cm cable length preferable) in order to avoid signal reflection effects on the transmission line. Input resistance is 650 Ohms nominally. The external clock frequency should not deviate by more than 1,0% from exact 10MHz (up or down), otherwise the reliability of communication with a control PC via USB is at risk.

Note, that in case a correct external clock signal is missing, but the device is set to "external clock" the FD 1-40 will be completely halted without the possibility to switch back to the internal source. This is caused by the fact, that also the internal microcontroller is supplied from this single clock source. In this case cycling the supply power will bring him back to normal operation.

USB-Portand Software Installation

A standard "type A" connector socket provides the possibility to connect the FD 1-40 to a control PC. In order to establish communication, the appropriate USB driver has to be installed on the PC. A Silicon Laboratories CP2102 chip is used for running the USB communication, so a suitable driver should be used (see provided software, which is included in the delivery) or downloaded from Silicon Laboratories Inc. The FD 1-40 device will appear and can be accessed by means of a virtual COM port on the control PC. The functionality of virtual COM ports is supported by almost all programming languages, including LabVIEWTM. After installing an appropriate driver, the user software can make use of the established communication; send commands and read data.

After this USB connection has been established, install the user surface by extracting the zipped file "NFsa40.zip" into an appropriate directory and run the "setup" installer.

Down Conversion Outputs

Eight independent low frequency outputs, corresponding to the 8 internal down conversion channels, are located at the rear side of the device. Their nominal frequency range is 0 to 40kHz, being adapted to the 40kHz range of an OROS FFT analyzer, or similar analyzers, with which the next signal processing step can be performed. Frequencies above 40kHz should not be considered for further processing, they contain remains of aliasing sidebands. The nominal output voltage range is 0..4.6Vpp, having a DC offset around 2.1V. Despite the fact, that the output impedance is only a few Ohms, and therefore very low, a termination with 50 Ohm is neither necessary nor recommended in favour of avoiding unnecessary loads on the FD 1-40 outputs.

230V Power

230V ac sine, 50...60Hz mains supply is recommended. Even though the device features a wide range (110...230V \sim) switch mode power supply, it is recommended to run the device with 230V ac. Power consumption is less than 50W.

Miscellaneous Data

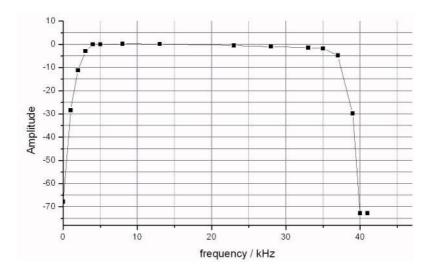
Dimensions (W x H x L): 254mm x 132mm x 255mm

Weight: approx. 4.7 kg

Frequency Characteristics

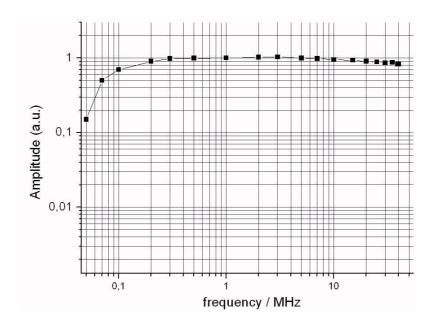
The following graphs show examples of measured frequency characteristics of the device. Of special interest is the sideband rejection ratio (pages 9-10), which states, to which degree signals outside the selected 40kHz window are folded into the region of interest due to non-linear and quantisation errors.

Output Frequency Response



Graph 1: frequency response of down converted output. measurement parameters: output channel 1, L.O. 26.517 MHz, input signal at input A sine wave, 10mV_{rms}

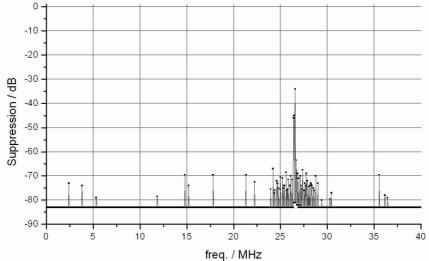
Input Frequency Response



Graph 2: frequency response of input channels A / B, doubly-logarithmic input signal: sine wave, $10mV_{rms}$

Sideband Rejection

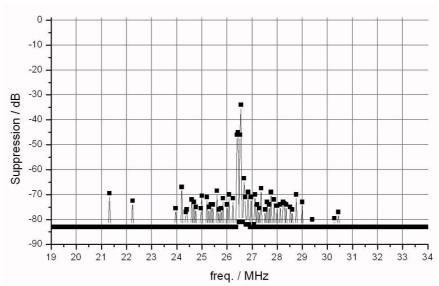
(Note: complex/shifted mode assumed)



Graph 3:

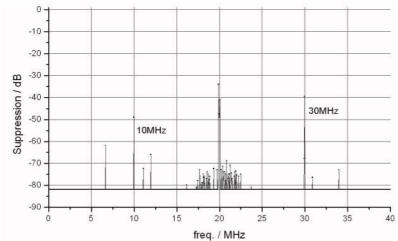
Sideband rejection for L.O at 26.517MHz, 40MHz observation span settings: VGA Gain = 2, DDC Gain = 16, test signal: sine, 10mV_{rms} input channel A, output channel 1

mesaurement device: Yokogawa SA2400 spectrum analyzer

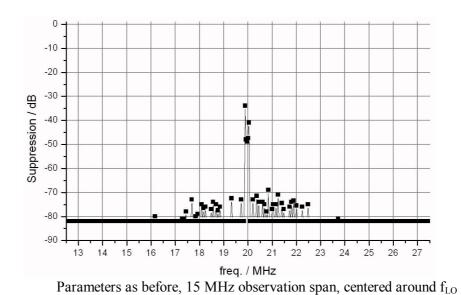


Graph 4:

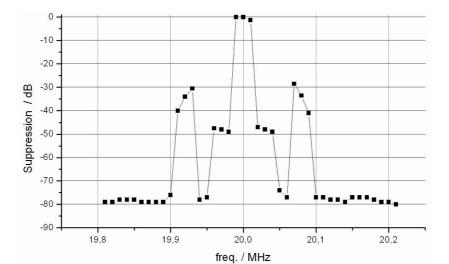
parameters as before, 15MHz observation span, centered around f_{LO}



Graph 5: Sideband rejection for L.O at 20MHz, 40MHz observation span settings: VGA Gain = 2, DDC Gain = 16, test signal: sine, 10mV_{rms} input channel A, output channel 1 mesaurement device: Yokogawa SA2400 spectrum analyzer



Graph 6:



Graph 7:

Parameters as before, 500 kHz observation span, centered around $f_{\rm LO}$ The three central points correspond to the non-suppressed, user-selected frequency band and define the level reference (0dB).

Appendix A:

List of Commands

Commands of the FD 1-40 / FSA40, to be sent via the serial USB connection once the latter has been established using WindowsTM drivers: ----> COMMANDS OF FSA40 ********************** -> Reset FSA40 Format: RST[CR] || rst[CR] This command generate software reset on uC and put system into default state. Default state means VGA disabled, AD conversion disabled, DDC disabled, serial output mode configured on DDC, 10Mhz on all chanels are set, coarse gain for all chanels is set to 2, phase is set to 0 rad, chanels 1 to 4 input are conigured to bus A, chanels 5 to 8 input are conigured to bus B. Response: No -> External/Internal clock Format: X[AHex][CR] || x[AHex][CR] [AHex] - ASCII converted hexadecimal number; 0 means external clock enable. any other number means internal clock enable. Response: No -> VGA enable/disable Format: E[Ch][AHex][CR] || e[Ch][AHex][CR] [Ch] - 'A' or 'B', selects DDC A or B, [AHex] - ASCII converted hexadecimal number; 0 means disable. any other number means enable. Response: No -> VGA gain set Format: G[Ch][AHex][CR] || g[Ch][AHex][CR] [Ch] - 'A' or 'B', selects DDC A or B, [AHex] - ASCII converted hexadecimal number; Reguler values are 0 - 7; Meanings: 0 - Gain 0.5 X, 1 - Gain 1 X,

2 - Gain 2 X, 3 - Gain 5 X, 4 - Gain 10 X, 5 - Gain 20 X,

6 - Gain 50 X, 7 - Gain 100 X.

Response: No

-> AD converter enable/disable

Format: C[Ch][AHex][CR] || c[Ch][AHex][CR]

[Ch] - 'A' or 'B' , selects DDC A or B,

[AHex] - ASCII converted hexadecimal number,

0 means disable,

any other number means enable.

Response: No

-> FIFO write enable

Format: F[AHex][CR] || f[Ch][AHex][CR]

[AHex] - ASCII converted hexadecimal number;

Meanings:

[bit1][bit0] - 01 - write enable bus A FIFO and send

first block of data,

02 - write enable bus B FIFO and send

first block of data,

03 - write enable both buses FIFOs and

send first block of data,

[bit3][bit2] - Block data size

00 - 256 points

01 - 512 points

10 - 1024 points 11 - 2048 points

Response: Yes

Format of response: V{[Hex] X n}[CR] || W{[Hex] X n}[CR]

V means A bus, W means B bus; Hex - hexadecimal number 0 - ff; n = Block data size X 2 bytes

Point (2 bytes) is organised as: [LSB][MSB].

!!! FIFO's deep is 32768 words (16 bits).

FIFO's write will be automaticaly disabled after full flag would be set.

-> FIFO A block read

Format: V[CR] || v[CR]

Response: Yes

Format of response: V{[Hex] X n}[CR]

V means A bus;

Hex - hexadecimal number 0 - ff; n = Block data size X 2 bytes

Point (2 bytes) is organised as: [LSB][MSB].

!!! FIFO's deep is 32768 words (16 bits).

FIFO's write will be automaticaly disabled after full flag would be set.

Format: W[CR] || w[CR]

Response: Yes

Format of response: W{[Hex] X n}[CR]

W means B bus;

Hex - hexadecimal number 0 - ff; n = Block data size X 2 bytes

Point (2 bytes) is organised as: [LSB][MSB].

!!! FIFO's deep is 32768 words (16 bits).

FIFO's write will be automaticaly disabled after full flag would be set.

-> DDC register read

Format: D[Ch][R][AHex1][AHex2][AHex3][AHex4][CR] || d[Ch][r][AHex1][AHex2][AHex3][AHex4][CR]

[Ch] - 'A' or 'B', selects DDC A or B,

[AHex1,2,3,4] - ASCII converted hexadecimal number;

[AHex1][AHex2] - Page number;

Regular pages: Global page 0, Cfir pages:

Ch1 0,1, Ch2 8,9, Ch3 16,17, Ch4 24,25,

Pfir pages:

Ch1 2-5 Ch2 10-13, Ch3 18-21, Ch4 26-29,

Freq page:

Ch1 6, Ch2 14, Ch3 22, Ch4 30,

Control page:

Ch1 7, Ch2 15, Ch3 23, Ch4 31, Resampler pages: 32-65, Output data pages: 96, 97, Output config page: 98.

[AHex3][AHex4] - Byte address;

Regular values: Global page: 0-7,

Cfir pages 1, 9, 17, 25: 16-21, Freq pages 6, 14, 22, 30: 16-21, Output config page 98: 16-28,

All other pages: 16-31.

Response: Yes

Format of response: D[Ch][R][AHex1][AHex2][AHex3][AHex4][AHex5][AHex6][CR]

[Ch] - 'A' or 'B', selects DDC A or B,

[AHex1,2,3,4,5,6] - ASCII converted hexadecimal number;

[AHex1][AHex2] - Page number;

Regular pages: Global page 0, Cfir pages:

Ch1 0,1, Ch2 8,9, Ch3 16,17, Ch4 24,25,

Pfir pages:

Ch1 2-5 Ch2 10-13, Ch3 18-21, Ch4 26-29,

Freq page:

Ch1 6, Ch2 14, Ch3 22, Ch4 30,

Control page:

Ch1 7, Ch2 15, Ch3 23, Ch4 31,

Resampler pages: 32-65, Output data pages: 96, 97, Output config page: 98.

[AHex3][AHex4] - Byte address;

Regular values:

Global page: 0-7,

Cfir pages 1, 9, 17, 25: 16-21, Freq pages 6, 14, 22, 30: 16-21, Output config page 98: 16-28, All other pages: 16-31.

[AHex5][AHex6] - Value of register 0 - ff.

```
-> DDC register write
```

Format: D[Ch][W][AHex1][AHex2][AHex3][AHex4][AHex5][AHex6][CR]

[Ch] - 'A' or 'B', selects DDC A or B,

[AHex1,2,3,4,5,6] - ASCII converted hexadecimal number;

[AHex1][AHex2] - Page number;

Regular pages: Global page 0,

Cfir pages:

Ch1 0,1, Ch2 8,9, Ch3 16,17, Ch4 24,25,

Pfir pages:

Ch1 2-5 Ch2 10-13, Ch3 18-21, Ch4 26-29,

Freq page:

Ch1 6, Ch2 14, Ch3 22, Ch4 30,

Control page:

Ch1 7, Ch2 15, Ch3 23, Ch4 31, Resampler pages: 32-65,

Output data pages: 96, 97, Output config page: 98.

[AHex3][AHex4] - Byte address;

Regular values: Global page: 0-7,

Cfir pages 1, 9, 17, 25: 16-21, Freq pages 6, 14, 22, 30: 16-21, Output config page 98: 16-28,

All other pages: 16-31.

[AHex5][AHex6] - Value of register 0 - ff.

Response: No

-> DDC configuration command

Format: D[Ch]C[AHex][CR] || d[Ch]c[AHex][CR]

[Ch] - 'A' or 'B', selects DDC A or B,

[AHex] - ASCII converted hexadecimal number;

[bit1][bit0] - 00 - means config DDC to complex mode

with uC output;

01 - means config DDC to real mode with

serial output;

20 - means config DDC to complex mode with

serial output;

[bit6][bit5] - this bits impacts real mode with serial

output, only;

00 - output filters 68%,

01 - output filters 80% (default value),

20 - output filters 100%.

Response: No

-> DDC output FIFO read

Format: A[AHex][CR] || a[AHex][CR]

[AHex] - ASCII converted hexadecimal number;

Meanings:

[bit3][bit2][bit1][bit0] bit0 = 1 - Chanel A bit1 = 1 & bit0 = 0 - Chanel B [bit3][bit2] - Block data size 00 - 256 points 01 - 512 points 10 - 1024 points 11 - 2048 points

Response: Yes

Format of response: A{[Hex] X n}[CR] || B{[Hex] X n}[CR]

A or B chanel;

Hex - hexadecimal number 0 - ff; n = Block data size X 8 X 2 bytes; Point (8 X 2 bytes) is organised as: AI([LSB][MSB]), AQ([LSB][MSB]), BI([LSB][MSB]), BQ([LSB][MSB]), CI([LSB][MSB]), CQ([LSB][MSB]), DI([LSB][MSB]), DQ([LSB][MSB]).

!!! This command is aplicable if DDC is configured in uC complex mode, only.

-> DDC chanel synch

Format: Y[AHex][CR]

[AHex] - ASCII converted hexadecimal number;

Meanings:

- 1 synchronise processes in DDC A,
- 2 synchronise processes in DDC B,
- 3 synchronise processes in both DDCs (!!!Important this command have to be send after turning on or reconfiguration both DDC for proper operation!!!).

Response: No

-> System state

.....

Format: S?[CR]
Response: Yes

Format of response: SS[AHex1][AHex2][CR]

[AHex1,2] - ASCII converted hexadecimal number;

[AHex1] - [bit0] - 0 means external clock,

1 means internal clock,

[bit1] - 0 means no errors detected,

1 means errors detected,

[bit2] - 0 output mode of chanel A is serial,

1 output mode of chanel A is uC,

[bit3] - 0 output mode of chanel B is serial, 1 output mode of chanel B is uC,

[bit4] - 0 means VGA of chanel A disabled,

1 means VGA of chanel A enabled,

[bit5] - 0 means VGA of chanel B disabled,

1 means VGA of chanel B enabled, [bit6] - 0 means AD conversion of A chanel is disabled.

1 means AD conversion of A chanel is enabled,

[bit7] - 0 means AD conversion of B chanel is disabled,

1 means AD conversion of B chanel is enabled;

[AHex2] - [bit0] - 0 means external clock,

1 means internal clock,

[bit1] - 0 means no errors detected,

1 means errors detected,

[bit2] - 0 output mode of chanel A is serial,

```
1 output mode of chanel A is uC,
```

[bit3] - 0 output mode of chanel B is serial,

1 output mode of chanel B is uC,

[bit4] - 0 means VGA of chanel A disabled,

1 means VGA of chanel A enabled,

[bit5] - 0 means VGA of chanel B disabled, 1 means VGA of chanel B enabled,

[bit6] - 0 means AD conversion of A chanel is disabled,

1 means AD conversion of A chanel is enabled,

[bit7] - 0 means AD conversion of B chanel is disabled,

1 means AD conversion of B chanel is enabled;

//...Regular start-up procedure

EA1 //...Enable VGA A

GA1 //...Set gain of VGA A to 1

CA1 //...Enable AD conversion A

EB1 //...Enable VGA B

GB1 //...Set gain of VGA B to 1 CB1 //...Enable AD conversion A Y3 //...Synchronise DDCs

//...Frequency setting

DBW1E12c5

DBW1E13a7 DBW1E1400 DBW1E1520

DAW0612f8 //...Ch1 set to 10000100.00 Hz DAW061314 DAW061400 DAW061520 DAW0E12f1 //...Ch2 set to 10000200.00 Hz DAW0E1329 DAW0E1400 DAW0E1520 DAW1612ea //...Ch3 set to 10000300.00 Hz DAW16133e DAW161400 DAW161520 DAW1E12e2 //...Ch4 set to 10000400.00 Hz DAW1E1353 DAW1E1400 DAW1E1520 DBW0612db //...Ch5 set to 10000500.00 Hz DBW061368 DBW061400 DBW061520 DBW0E12d4 //...Ch6 set to 10000600.00 Hz DBW0E137d DBW0E1400 DBW0E1520 DBW1612cc //...Ch7 set to 10000700.00 Hz DBW161392 DBW161400 DBW161520

//...Ch4 set to 10000800.00 Hz

//...Bus selecting

```
DAW071b01
               //...Ch1 input from bus B
               //...Ch2 input from bus B
DAW0F1b01
               //...Ch3 input from bus B
DAW171b01
DAW1F1b01
               //...Ch4 input from bus B
DBW071b00
               //...Ch5 input from bus A
DBW0F1b00
               //...Ch6 input from bus A
               //...Ch7 input from bus A
DBW171b00
DBW1F1b00
               //...Ch8 input from bus A
```

//...Coarse gain setting

```
DAW071900
                //...Ch1 coarse gain set to 1
DAW0F1910
                //...Ch2 coarse gain set to 2
                //...Ch3 coarse gain set to 4
DAW171920
DAW1F1930
                //...Ch4 coarse gain set to 8
                //...Ch5 coarse gain set to 16
DBW071940
                //...Ch6 coarse gain set to 32
DBW0F1950
DBW171960
                //...Ch7 coarse gain set to 64
DBW1F1970
                //...Ch8 coarse gain set to 128
```

//...Coniguring output filter in real mode, serial output

```
DAC01 //...68% filter select on DDC A outputs
DBC01 //...68% filter select on DDC B outputs
```

Y3 //...Synchronise DDCs

//...Default configuration

DAC21 //...80% filter select on DDC A outputs DBC21 //...80% filter select on DDC B outputs

Y3 //...Synchronise DDCs

DAC41 //...100% filter select on DDC A outputs DBC41 //...100% filter select on DDC B outputs

Y3 //...Synchronise DDCs